

FROM THE VAULT: Ask It for Organizational Leaders

One decision-making question that can reduce regret and bring clarity: **“What is the wise thing to do?”**

A *common but flawed* approach we often take is to make decisions by asking, “Is it wrong?” or “Is it illegal?” rather than, “Is it wise?”

- Many regrets start with an unwise, not necessarily immoral or illegal, decision.
- This approach leads to pushing limits and invites us to make decisions on how close we can get to the line without crossing it.

Why Does this Question Matter?

- It cuts through emotions, relational complexities, and pressure to bring instant clarity.
- It helps avoid both quick and long-planned bad choices.
- It prevents time-consuming, expensive regret.

Three Angles to Ask the Question From:

1

In light of my past experience, what is the wise thing to do?

Your past is a personal guide for current choices. Avoid repeating mistakes by considering past outcomes and tendencies.

2

In light of my current circumstances, what is the wise thing to do?

Factor in your present season, emotional state, and financial realities. Some opportunities, although good, aren't good for right now.

3

In light of my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do?

Protect your long-term goals from short-term unwise decisions that could derail your progress.